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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 31 (H.502). Domestic relations; parentage**

**An act relating to modernizing Vermont's parentage laws**

This act created the Parentage Study Committee to examine and provide recommendations with regard to modernizing Vermont's parentage laws in recognition of the changing nature of the family. The Committee will study how Vermont's parentage laws should be updated to address various issues that have come before the courts in recent years and issues that have arisen and been addressed in other New England states on these matters, including assisted reproductive technology and de facto parentage, and report on or before October 1, 2017 to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House Committee on Human Services with its findings and recommendations for legislative action. Members include a judge or Justice appointed by the Chief Superior Judge; a member appointed by the Commissioner for Children and Families; an attorney appointed by the Director of the Office of Child Support; two members appointed by the Vermont Bar Association who are attorneys experienced in parentage issues related to reproductive technology and surrogacy; and one member who is a medical professional with expertise in reproductive technology, appointed by the Committee at its first meeting.

Effective Date: May 10, 2017